

C&NW CTC/Audax Rides - Berwyns Rides 20th May 2017

The weather was glorious as we signed in for the event at [Willington Hall Hotel](#). The sunshine degenerated into heavy showers around the [Prospect Tea Rooms](#), but then cleared up for the rest of the day.

The route in and out of Cheshire has been revised for this year, back to the year 2000 model, which gives a more rural experience than the 2016 model - this revised route received many favourable comments and will be retained in future.

Tour of the Berwyns, 210km; 3100m climbing

There were approximately 75 entries for this event, which whittled down to 65 starters on the day - a very high proportion of starters to DNS which contradicted my "rule of thumb" that only 2/3 entrants ever turn up for a hilly 200k ride.

All riders returned safely, in times varying from 9hrs 30mins (chapeaux! to the [Seamons CC "A team"](#)) to 13hrs 10mins, (50 minutes inside time limit) by a team representing [C&NW CTC](#). 5 riders were declared as members of [C&NW CTC](#). 2 riders were out of time and have resolved to do better next year.

There is now an increasing trend for riders to enjoy the ride but not request validation of their brevet card. Due to the current start sheet format, this means that anyone not requesting validation has to be registered as DNF, even though they have completed the ride. I have discussed this issue with the powers that be at [Audax UK](#) who are already aware of this situation and intend to modify the start sheet format to allow for "*ride successfully finished but validation not required*".

On a more disturbing note, we discovered one person, who had not entered, riding on someone else's entry (and we suspect others). Not all [Audax UK](#) entry forms consistently state that entries are non-transferrable as well as non-refundable. This is to be corrected ASAP, not least for insurance and emergency contact purposes.

However, in spite of the above issues, everyone said how much they enjoyed the ride and stunning scenery---which is what really matters!

Prospect Panorama 135km; 1000m of climbing

This relatively new event takes the long climb from [Johnstown](#) up to the beautifully situated [Prospect Tea Rooms](#) above [Llangollen](#), exactly as for the 200k, but then short cuts back from the [Panorama](#) via [Sun Trevor](#) to [Chirk](#). We now have a relocated café stop here in the [Castle](#)

Bistro following the demise of the nostalgic Milk Bar, haven on many rides over the last 20 years or more.

There were 46 entries for this event with 35 starters all but one of whom returned safely. 3 were declared as members of **C&NW CTC**.

Unfortunately there was a fairly serious accident at a dip in the road below the **Prospect Tea Rooms** when an “out of control” mountain biker rounded a blind bend and collided head on with one of our riders travelling in the opposite direction. The accident has been referred to **Audax UK** and **Cycling UK** and it would appear at this stage that the worst of the injuries is a broken collarbone - now on the mend.

Apart from the accident, a very successful set of events in which returning riders said how much they enjoyed the day out. It is intended to repeat these rides on **Saturday May 19 in 2018**.

Many thanks to **Margaret Matthews** and the staff at **Willington Hall** for operating the start and finish through a long 13-hour day. Also to **Margaret Matthews** for operating the rather congested control at the **Prospect Tea Rooms** and to **Lowri Evans** for presenting a 'Thank You certificate' to the **Castle Bistro**.

David Matthews - Organiser

